THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) As per 1991 census, the population of Scheduled Tribes in the country was 8.08 per cent.

(b) There are 19 Autonomous District Councils and all are located in North-Eastern States.

(c) The Ministry has not received any such proposal from the States other than those in the North-Eastern region.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Survey on death of tribal children in Thane District

2631. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the recent survey published by the Pune-based Tribal Training and Research Institute confirming that deaths of 69 per cent of the 26 tribal children in Thane district during April-August were due to malnutrition, respiratory disorders, convulsions, etc.;

(b) if so, whether such deaths are restricted to tribal children only or this is the general state of affairs in Maharashtra; and

(c) the steps being taken that tribal children especially in Maharashtra and also all over the country are taken care to avoid recurrence of such a tragedy?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRIJUAL ORAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A copy of the report of Tribal Training & Research Institute, Pune has been forwarded to the Government of Maharashtra for the views of the State Government on findings and observations of the report and to take necessary action.

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs is implementing the Grain Bank Scheme to take preventive measures against death of children in remote and

backward tribal areas by providing a safeguard against fall in nutritional standards to Scheduled Tribes living in remote rural areas.

Post-matric scholarships to ST/SC students

2632. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of post-matric scholarships and stipends granted by Government to students belonging to scheduled Tribes for the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the number of students belonging to the SC community who were granted scholarships and stipends during last three years, State-wise and sex-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs is implementing a Centrally-Sponsored Scheme of Post-Matric Scholarship for ST students. The amount released by the Ministry to States/UTs for disbursement of Scholarships to ST students during the last three years is given in the Statement-I (See below).

(b) Information is given in Statement-ll.

Statement-I

Grants-in-aid released under the scheme of Post-Matric Scholarship for ST students during the last three years

		1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
S.No.	Name of State	Amount Released	Amount Released	Amount Released
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	96302300	157774040	191509920
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	13000000	0	0 0
3.	Assam	200559900	100000000	